

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

**Hackney's OTHER Newspaper**

Photo: Jimmy Olsen/BOC

## COUNCIL 'THUGS' MENACE TENANTS

Two senior housing officers from Hackney Council were among a group that allegedly "bulldozed" their way into the Woodberry Down Area office "like a bunch of Mafia thugs", shoving tenants aside and making violent threats. The base was occupied by Woodberry Down tenants on Sunday 23rd September. The tenants say they have been harassed by housing officers ever since. One eye-witness said an officer said he would "smash your bleeding faces in" if they did not come out from behind the counter.

Terry Robinson, secretary of Hackney Tenants Federation, said that this showed the officers' "absolute contempt for tenants". He described them as "right wing, reactionary and racist".

Two officers named were Barrie Hibberd and Keith Veness, both

he said. "There was no animosity and no untoward action towards the tenants." He would not make any further comment until the whole matter was discussed at a NUPE branch meeting.

HPP has been unable to ascertain whether a blatantly racist document, found behind the counter at the base by tenants, was part of the material referred to. A 'joke' list of BBC programmes, it contained matter both pathetic and offensive, such as "Cooniversity challenge".

The tenants say that the phone hasn't stopped ringing with messages of support for their action. But they accuse the housing officers of using 'teamster' style tactics in an attempt to force them to leave the base. Tenants who come in to report repairs are being intimidated, and they believe housing officers are responsible for the sabotage of lifts on the estate. Outside contractors, SEFlame, the

gas repairers and the Express lift company have been told by council officers that they will not get paid if they carry out any repairs on the estate while the area base is occupied. It is a war of attrition: Tony Shoultz, Hackney's Director of Housing is determined to defeat the occupation and tenants have fears of harassment, such as the heating being turned off. There were rumours that rubbish chutes were being sealed. Mobile Patrol and Emergency cover people said "No council worker will set foot on the estate until the tenants' association leaves the base."

Yet the council's DLO manual workers attached to the office supported the tenants' action, and DLO shop stewards

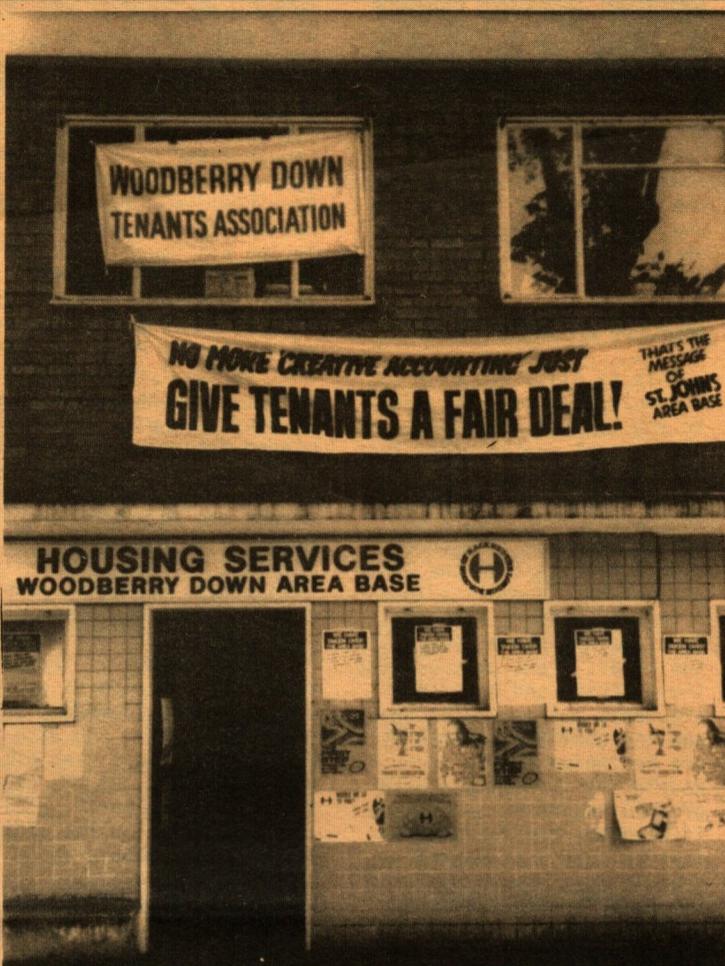
When HPP asked Woodberry Down's tenant secretary Jim Merry for evidence of the kinds of harassment and negligence the tenants suffered, he answered: "Just walk out the door and turn left." During the course of our visit, a stream of tenants came in with complaints. A short walk around the estate confirmed Merry's advice:

- A woman with a small child had her flat broken into and the door smashed down. When the tenants' association rang the Council's mobile patrol to ask for emergency repairs they were told: "No council workers will set foot on the estate until the tenants leave the base".

- A man whose gas was cut off before the occupation because of a gas leak was told by the Gas Board that Hackney council had told them not to carry out any more work on the estate, leaving the family in limbo.



also NUPE shop stewards. Barrie Hibberd said the story was "a complete fabrication". He said he had been to visit the base, but denied there was any trouble. "There was no pushing and no shoving", he told HPP. "It was a peaceful collection of NUPE officers who wanted personal and private material to be given back." The material included alarm clocks, diaries and coats,



## Millions linked by Greenham

The presence of thousands of women from all over Britain and many parts of the world at Greenham Common from September 20th - 30th, was obviously too insignificant to merit media coverage. Nevertheless, more women camped there than ever before, many staying overnight for the first time, and the scale of police and military patrols both inside and outside the base, didn't stop women cutting through the fence and getting into the base every night.

Greenham Common itself was only part of "10 Million Women, 10 Days", conceived as a counter-action to the huge military Exercise Lionheart in Europe. Hackney played its part, beginning with a Greenham Women's Festival at Hackney Women's Centre on 22nd September.

On Thursday 27th September women from Oakdale Women's Support Group came to Greenham with members of Hackney Greenham Women's Groups, who were represented at Blue Gate throughout the ten days. The Oakdale women were immediately presented with food for distribution in Gwent and met many Greenham Women who had been involved in supporting the miners' strike in other parts of the country.

The majority of women experienced the ten days as a festival rather than an action. Singing, dancing, parties, talking, workshops, fence cutting and mud have all become part of an identifiable Greenham culture. Politicians and police may have learnt a thing or two about defending their base - but they haven't found a way of undermining the strength of solidarity and communication between the growing numbers of women who oppose it.

*More about Greenham on p.8.*

### SORRY WE'RE LATE!

A number of production difficulties and the loss of key personnel means that this issue covers October and November...

HPP desperately needs more people to help put the next issue out. If you can contribute anything, then come along to our meeting at Centerprise on Wednesday 7 November.

# Time for the Big One

In Hackney, lefties are ten a penny. No respectable group, grouplet, faction, fraction or tendency can possibly set up shop in this country without getting at least half a dozen comrades together to start a Hackney branch. You look at any of their journals when they're setting targets for numbers of papers sold or money donated to the Fighting Fund and Hackney is always top of the list. Walls all over the borough are flyposted with posters advertising obscure events with grandiose titles; "Seminar on the Coming Struggle"; "Conference on Preparing for Power"; "Meeting on Humanizing the Earth". Who reads them? The answer is, of course, lefties from other tendencies, fractions, factions, grouplets or groups, who spot another meeting when they can go along and harangue a bunch of, to their eyes, misguided or incorrect comrades on the true path to socialism. Saturday mornings in the main shopping streets are full of dangerous looking people trying to sell newspapers and shiftily avoiding each others' eyes. All this is probably a complete mystery to many people who live in Hackney, who are not involved at all in politics, and certainly couldn't care less about the difference between the Revolutionary Socialist Party and the Communist Workers League. They think they're "all Commies", which is a bit of a slur on the poor old CP, who are as respectable and pleasant bunch of people you could ever wish to bump into outside Stoke Newington Post Office on a Saturday.

## SELF-IMPORTANT

It is plainer and plainer to my old eyes how minuscule the left is, and how self-important and deluded most of the people involved in it are. Even when Spurs are having a bad run, more people go to matches at White Hart Lane than would ever think of going on a demonstration. (Even more go at the moment, but that's another story. What will Shreeves do when Hoddle and Ardiles are fit?)

The poor old Labour Party is somehow both above and below this ritual dance. Some groups are not at all interested in it, seeing it as

irretrievably reformist and not worth the candle of saving. Others see it as their most important strategic target, and spend most of their time trying to get into it, and when they are in it, trying to take it over. So the actual attempts of the Labour Party to do something, say like getting rid of Thatcher, can sometimes be subsumed in the real struggle - to win over, or destroy, the Labour Party.

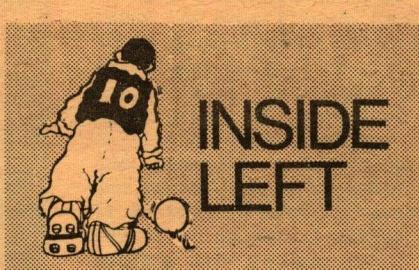
## MAIN MESSAGE

This is all a bit of a preamble to my main message to you tonight, not from the horses' mouths, that the Labour Party is not in too bad a shape today, thank you very much. Unity of a sort has broken out all over, with a feeling that the Tories are getting themselves into a spot of bother, with the Belgrano and other leaks, that the miners are slowly winning their strike and that the arguments against rate-capping and the abolition of the GLC are beginning to win through. Couple all this with a dash of "new realism", and season it with the genuine determination that last year's debacle must never be repeated, and you get a feeling that things are on the up.

This is what has caused the almost unprecedented cohesion not only in the Labour group on Hackney Council, but also amongst Labour councillors across the country. This year is the Big One, the Crunch, and there is no doubt that confrontation with the Government is inevitable when rates have to be set next spring. The feeling is so deep that senior officers in Hackney, including the Chief Executive, have already stated meeting to plan how they will handle the situation when mass resignation occurs. And if senior officers believe that it is likely then it must be.

Inevitably, there are some flies in the ointment. Equally inevitably, in Hackney circles, one of these is the dreaded Gery Lawless, Ireland's single greatest piece of revenge for centuries of Brit imperialism. He has chosen this moment to launch his campaign to become the next MP for Hackney North, by planting stories in various Irish newspapers that it is "highly probable" that he will be selected. This is pure

## INSIDE LEFT



## Will the real Brien stand up?

Dear HPP

It was announced in the Old Bailey recently that the British government is to apply for the extradition of a William 'Brian' O'Connor, with an address in the New North Road, who is now serving a jail sentence in Dublin's Mountjoy Jail. O'Connor is to face charges in the Central Criminal Court arising from his alleged part in an armed burglary in London, in which an Asian family was held hostage and a six-year-old Asian child was threatened with having his 'head blown off'.

Is this by any chance the same 'Brien O'Connor' who wrote in HPP last July proclaiming his support for Anthony Kendall and making abusive personal attacks on me?

I am moved to ask this question since you deleted a postscript from my last letter which pointed out for the benefit of anyone who might want to use a phony Irish name, that Brien is the way one spells that Irish surname in



## letters

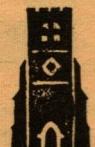
English, but the first, or Christian name is spelled Brian or, less often, Bryan.

I can find no other 'Brien, Bryan or Brian O'Connor' on the electorate register in Hackney, so may I repeat my request, also suppressed from my letter published in your August issue, if the Mr O'Connor from Hackney, who is now residing in Mountjoy Jail, is not the gentleman who wrote so eulogically in support of Vormaliggruppenfuehrer Anthony Kendall, may I have your 'Mr O'Connor's' real address?

Gery Lawless  
Hackney Town Hall.

HPP writes: If Brien O'Connor cares to write to Gery Lawless c/o HPP his letter will be forwarded.

## Hackney Gazette



## NEW LIFE FOR OLD PAPER

Exciting times in the life of Hackney's other newspaper, the Gazette. Editor David Messer, who sat in East London's second hottest editorial seat for 12 years (it seemed like longer), has retired to "concentrate on the publishing company of which he is a director". He has been succeeded, according to the 7 September edition, by one Roger Jones, who has quickly made his presence felt by introducing some much needed pazz to the paper's look. Bigger type on the front page, reversed out strap-lines and subheads, redesigned headings for regular features: the Hackney won't yet win a prize for its design but it has already improved since Messer's day, when it usually looked as though it had been thrown together in the dark.

And new features as well! Russell Grant writing the horoscope (in a syndicated column that you'll be able to read in other papers around the country) and a series of vox pop interviews with the people of the borough. This got off to a good political start with interviews about collecting for the Miners Solidarity Fund but quickly degenerated into boring lightweight stuff about women drivers.

David Messer will miss most for his sure touch with a headline: "Crowds turn out to meet top royal"; "A railway station, a bookies and a car are victims of three blazes"; "Plastics cripple the tin can men" were some of his more bizarre recent offers. None of

these can however cap his all time best, from several years back, "Slipped on cat sick and fell from balcony". Messer was also renowned for his ability to produce the paper single handed during journalists' disputes, which he managed by filling the paper with agency stories and readers' letters.

## Bores go over the limit

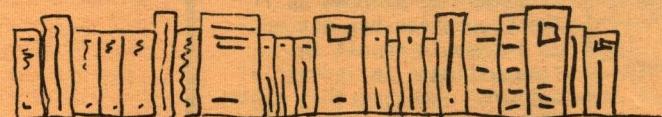
And what will the new editor do about the letters page? One his early issues managed to contain two letters from Arthur Super. Both he and the rest of the usual bores have not yet diminished their outflow. Perhaps Jones will limit them to one letter per month - or better still, one per year.

Somehow, HPP doesn't feel that there will be a deep and fundamental change in the "good old 'Ackney" (as K. Mackrill wrote on the letters page just a few weeks ago). Will it provide real coverage of local politics for instance? Will it campaign in the community? Will it be genuinely open to the people of Hackney for their contributions? The answer to all these will almost certainly be no.

Which gives us, on HPP, inspiration to carry on, as we have done for the last 11 years, without an editor and without commercial pressure. If you really want to stay ahead in Hackney, you'll have to continue what you're doing already - read HPP!

Hackney People's Press

## Giant 2nd hand BOOK SALE



HPP is having a giant second hand booksale in January. If you have any books to donate, please ring 806 9211 (evenings and weekends) and we will arrange collection. Or drop us a note, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury St, N.16.

## Stop the City: Business as usual

FOR the third time this year, on 27 September, a loose federation of anarchists, animal liberationists and peace activists attempted to Stop the City.

The event was not a resounding success. For once the police crowd estimate (2000) was probably on the high side. Their calculations probably have a lot to do with the massive police build-up for the action. On the day before the Standard's front page screamed: "City prepares for demo chaos" and quoted a police statement that 7000 demonstrators were expected. It would not provide valuable propaganda to admit that all leave was cancelled in the Metropolitan Police area in order to deal with a few scattered bands of punks in the City.

Policing on the day was particularly heavy handed, in contrast to the smiling bobbies you see when the cops are seriously outnumbered (miners take note). Under Commissioner Ken Newman's orders, the police were arresting people arbitrarily. 470 was the final total, which means that up to half of the people taking part were nicked.

One copper with a peaked cap and silver blobs on his shoulder explained: "a single person can cause an obstruction, just by standing still". Around the corner a coach full of police was parked illegally, blocking off the entire pavement.

Intimidation was a deliberate police policy, aimed at discouraging future Stop the City actions. St Paul's Cathedral was barricaded and guarded by B division coppers. Some Americans were taking pictures of each other with the smiling bobbies -- did the tourists think that St Paul's was always ringed with metal barriers and policemen?

Less than 50 yards away another policeman was confiscating leaflets and ripping them up. Next to him another cop was telling protestors: "You're not allowed to demonstrate here, either under the law or not under the law, but because the Commissioner says so. If I see you back here again you'll be arrested."

The day was disappointing and depressing. It will be interesting to see if Newman's tactics work. When Greenham Women first lay down in the streets of the City two years ago, they developed a powerful new idea -- attack capitalism at its nerve centre. The disruption caused by even just a few people can be very satisfying.

But out of the three STC events this year, only one could be called an unqualified success. With so many enthusiasts, there have been far too many Stop the City calls put out in the last year. It should really be a once-a-year activity, saved up, like the Vietnamese Tet, for a springtime offensive.

## POLICE BEAT

### YOUNG BILL'S BANAL PLAN

It's been a busy month for Commander Bill Taylor, Hackney's top cop. Not only has he been posing for newspaper ads, as a shining example of the Met's Graduate Entry Scheme ("At 35 Bill Taylor reached one of the highest ranks in the police service, Commander in the Met...He's now in charge of one of the busiest and most demanding districts in London's East End") but he's also been presenting the fuzz's "new plans" for policing the borough.

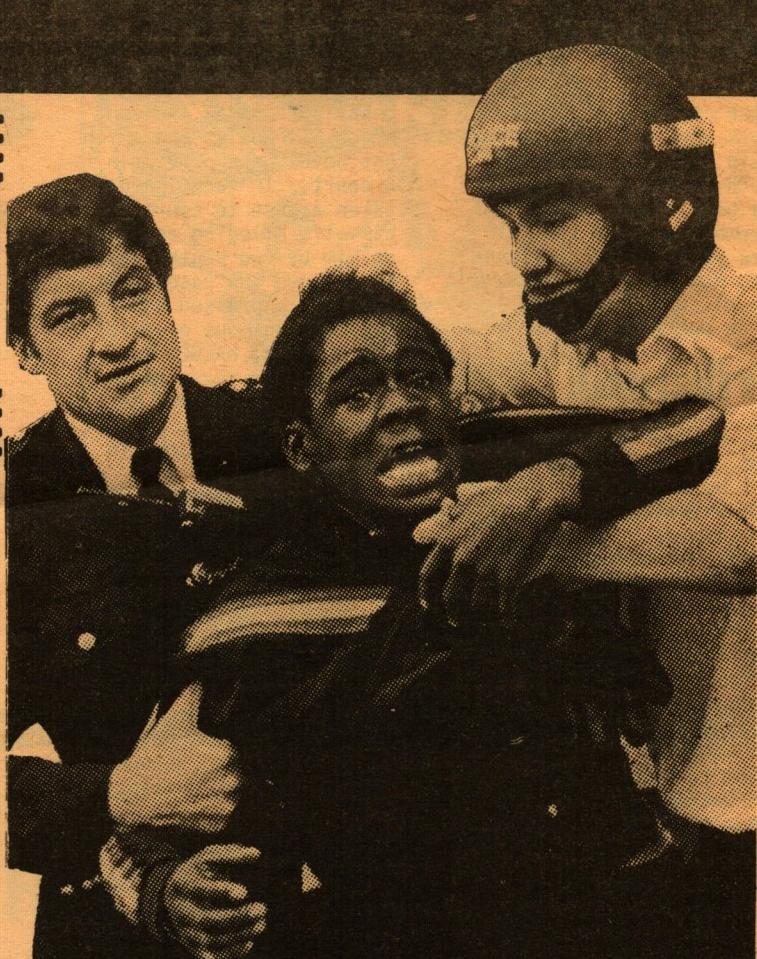
However, the police plans in Hackney and Stoke Newington have already been criticised by Brynley Heaven, chair of the Council's Police Committee, as "a particularly banal part of a banal exercise". He pointed out to HPP how sketchy the plans were, and that they contained virtually nothing that was new. This was also admitted by police community liaison officer, Supt. Alan Doricott, in the Hackney Gazette.

The police have identified

four objectives which it would be difficult to argue with. These include detection and prevention of robbery, burglary and auto crime and the enhancement of involvement with the community. They claim to have devised after taking stock of local views, but have not said how they have done this.

It must have been a mysterious process because although there have been a few meetings organised by them to try and get some public response, the turn out has been extremely low. In addition, the Council and many other community groups' boycott of relationships with the police continues, since there has not been an independent enquiry into the death nearly two years ago of Colin Roach.

The lightweight nature of the Hackney police's plans can be seen if they are contrasted with those for Newham, also published recently. This is a much more thorough document, with lists and maps detailing neighbourhood watch schemes



and a mention, at least, of racial harassment. There seems to be little co-ordination across London of the different types of plan put forward by the dashing Bill Taylor and his like. Perhaps they should bring their

"highly trained minds" and their "outstanding potential" (to quote the ads) to bear on how to provide a service which is truly responsible to the needs of the people of the borough.

NOT AN ADVERTISEMENT

### Roach truth at last?

A strange postscript to the tragic death of Colin Roach, who died of a shotgun blast in Stoke Newington Police Station in January 1983. The recently published report of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner for 1983 lists all deaths "in police custody or otherwise with the police". The note against Colin's case says: "Deceased walked into police station in possession of a sawn off shotgun which he later used to commit suicide in an interview room." This contradicts all the police evidence at the inquest where they said throughout that Colin was in the foyer of the police station when he died. Is this a mistake, or has the truth somehow slipped out?

### Police get 10,000 names from Council

A copy of a letter from the District Housing Manager on the Woodberry Down Estate has recently been sent anonymously to Brynley Heaven, Chair of Hackney's Police Committee. The letter, from a Mr Cade, says, in part, that "the Director of Housing has instructed me to hand over the names of all tenants

on the estate to the Scotland Yard Terrorist Squad." Aside from the fact that the Squad is supposed to be Anti-terrorist, it is disturbing, to say the least, that Hackney Council were prepared to give the police, who were presumably looking for a "bomb factory" or something of that kind, the names of 10,000 of their tenants and their families. The Council now has a policy of non-co-operation with the police, so something like this should never happen again. Or would it?

### Two arrests collecting for miners

The police harassment of people collecting money for the Miners Strike Fund reached a new high during September with the arrest and charges of obstruction of two members of Hackney Youth CND, Tom Silverlock and Polly Vittorini. The result of this was a mass collection at the same spot - outside Sainsbury's in Dalston - which passed off without incident and a protest meeting organised by the Council Police Committee.

The Police Committee has also produced a very helpful leaflet about organising street collections, in conjunction with the Miners Support Committee Hackney. This can be obtained from the Police Committee Support Unit, Room 50, Hackney Town Hall. (986 3123 ext. 278/230).



At 35, Bill Taylor landed one of those high profile posts they always told him about at Bramshill Police Staff College, Commander in the Met (that makes him one of Sir Kenneth's golden boys, he's really shooting for the top!).

He's now in charge of one of those rough and ready East End districts that give the Metropolitan Police such a reputation on picket lines up and down the country. If he plays his cards right, the BBC may start making adventure serials about his 'patch'. If he's not so careful, he may get some unwanted attention from left-wing documentary film- and trouble-makers.

Obviously long service has nothing to do with Bill's meteoric

rise to the heights. It takes exceptional qualities to get to the top.

The ability to manage and manipulate.

To cover-up tricky situations and act with discretion.

To take the kind of decisions that can profoundly affect people's lives, without a thought for their feelings.

Naturally, only the most tame minds make it - and having the kind of face that gets you noticed helps too.

If you're on the dole and feeling bored, think how much more fun you would have kicking the shit out of pickets and harassing working people.

If you join the Met, you too might have your picture in the papers by 1993.

## Centre to reopen?

After nearly a year, some youth work will be starting again soon at the Clapton Youth Centre. The Centre has been closed since last November and the two full-time youth workers suspended. Now one, Anslem (Sam) Samuel, has been reinstated as an outreach worker. The

### Tribunal

case against the other, Jean Tate, the Head of the Centre, will be heard at an internal ILEA tribunal at the end of October.

Jean and Sam were both suspended after 6 of the 27 part-time youth workers working under them were dismissed by Jean after a series of disruptions. Although her action, as Head of Centre, was supported by the other 21 part-time workers, ILEA decided to use the incidents as an excuse for closure of the centre and to take disciplinary action against the two full-time staff.

Now Sam has been reinstated by ILEA, who have decided not to discipline him. However the Centre will not open fully until after Jean Tate's tribunal hearing. The letter to Sam advising him of his reinstatement also contained a statement about his alleged "violent

behaviour" in an incident which Sam denies and which has never been proved in a court. In fact, he had taken a case to court himself, alleging assault on him by two youths. When he dropped the case, the magistrate praised him for his "magnanimous gesture". Sam's union, NALGO, is fighting for these slurs to be removed before he starts work again. They are also backing Jean in her tribunal.

Senior ILEA officers have made repeated attempts to harass the work of Clapton Youth Centre for several years. The determination of the workers, and the strong support of the community (particularly the Hackney Black People's Association and the Hackney Council for Racial Equality) have helped Sam win another battle.

### Real losers

But only when the Centre is fully operational and the staff reinstated will a real victory have been won. And even if this occurs, the losers will be the hundreds of young people who use the Centre and who have been deprived of its facilities for almost a year.

## RACIST RAIDS

"Late night raids on the homes of innocent Turkish workers, curfew restrictions imposed on conditions of bail and deception methods by police are all part of the normal practice now."

This is the conclusion of the East London Campaign Against Racist Attacks and Police Harassment.

The campaign, originally called the East London Campaign Against the Police Bill, has now widened its scope, in the face of "burgeoning racist activity".

In a "Round the Boroughs" survey, the campaign found that when people are being detained, they are often denied access to community workers. Not only that, the workers themselves are often checked for immigration status.

They say that black tenants on the Nye Bevan Estate have complained of intolerable levels of police harassment, including raids on their homes without search warrants, doors kicked down in early hours of the morning. A black youth, Ricky Whittington, faces charges of grievous bodily harm and criminal damage after police raided his home in the early hours of the morning.

The treatment of Cirrus Noor, a close friend of Colin Roach, continues to give cause for concern, says the campaign. "It exposes yet again the racism of the prison service--their response to black prisoners who pose a threat to the system ranging from segregation to dispersal, from injection with zombifying drugs to sectioning under the Mental Health Act."

PRINTING · POSTERS · BADGE-MAKING

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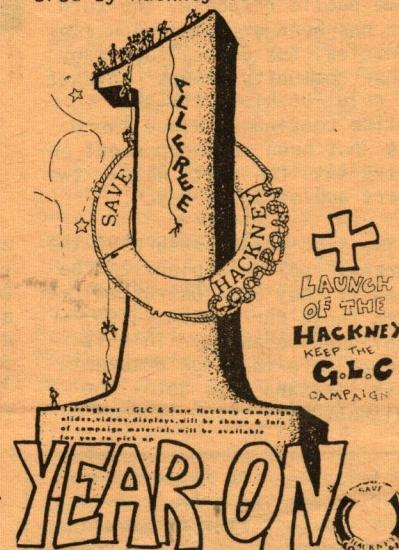
## THOSE MISSING MILLIONS

Hackney's "missing millions" made headlines last month. But the discovery that the government has deprived Hackney of £9 million began nearly a year ago at a Hackney Partnership committee meeting. This meeting was a memorable one, as the Save Hackney campaign welcomed Sir George Young, the minister, on the Town Hall steps with a breakfast of local Hackney produce.

Andreas Michealides (for GLC) asked Sir George to 'look again at Grant Related expenditure' and other special measures to get Hackney up to a decent resource base.

Sir George did look again, but found 'political dynamite' as the much publicised press leak shows.

Legal action to recover the funds for Britain's poorest borough is being considered by Hackney Council.



The Save Hackney Campaign celebrated its first birthday with a day of entertainment at Chats Palace on October 13. The same event also marked the launch of the Hackney Keep the GLC campaign.

All day information was on hand about rate-capping, the abolition of the GLC and the campaigns set up to fight them.

From 2pm to 5pm the free kids' event featured all kinds of attractions, fire fighters, cartoons, balloons, inflatables and refreshments.

This was followed by bands, booze and bopping. The day formed a fitting start to the autumn campaign programme. For details of what has been planned contact 739 8072.

## Multi-occupied "fire trap"

Two Hackney Environmental Health Officers last month criticised the laws relating to houses in multiple occupation and the Council's attitude, at a well attended meeting of Hackney C.H.A.R. (Campaign for the Single Homeless).

Ian Gray, an Environmental Public Health Officer, said:

'What laws there are seem very vague. Generally, if

several people live in a house and share the essential facilities, then it

is regarded as a house in multiple occupation, although landlords often

get round the law by calling their residents a 'family'.

Most of these houses are occupied by single men and women and by single parents.

These people live exactly

the same life-style as families do. They like to be able to prepare and cook good food; enjoy comfort; home entertainment, yet they

have to do all these things in one room.

Many privately owned properties are in an appalling state - they don't just need repairs and renovations; they need to be gutted and virtually rebuilt inside. Environmental Health Officers can order landlords to do essential repairs but this is not always enforceable by law. Councils can do these jobs themselves but the tenants have to be temporarily housed while the work proceeds and even landlords will demand to be rehoused.

An owner who has over-crowded his/her property can be taken to court and

if the council wins the landlord will evict tenants who are then homeless. The service areas of a house in multiple occupation do not seem to be anybody's responsibility under the law. Many houses in multiple occupation are fire traps. The council is loath to take action because it involves them in enormous expense and the necessity to rehouse people.

Bill Page who works in the West Bank (Stamford Hill) Housing Action Area explained how a housing action area works: staff tell landlords what they should do to make their houses habitable; they advise tenants on their rights; they give help where tenants are being harassed and they tender legal advice. In the last resort, they can put a Compulsory Purchase Order on a property, although this can be very expensive.

Since 1980, the Rent Act has been less effective. Landlords buy old houses, convert one room into several cubicles and let them to unemployed single people, and the D.H.S.S. will pay up to £30 per week for each resident.

Some residents and people who knew residents and the conditions under which they lived also spoke during the meeting.

Shuttleworth's "Hotel" was described as the first "doss-house" in London. In the '20s and '30s it was quite reasonable and served a useful purpose. More recently, it has become a 'last resort' for homeless single men on the lowest rung of the ladder. The place is falling to pieces and nothing is being done.

## Hackney's canals

Local people have been working recently to improve the Hackney stretch of the Regents Canal. Local school children were among the helpers and they have produced an exhibition of writings and drawings recording what they did.

The exhibition was put together with the assistance of Free Form and will interest not only canal enthusiasts, but also teachers and local people.

The exhibition is open Monday-Friday, 10-12am and 2-4pm at Free Form, 38 Dalston Lane, E8 and will be on show until the end of October.

## Unemployed action

Unemployed or know someone who is? Hackney Centre for the Unemployed is there to help. The centre provides advice and information and has an action group that takes up campaigning issues.

One important campaign at the moment is the fight for jobs is the miners' dispute. The action group is holding a disco for the miners on 27 October at the Trades Union and Labour Club, Dalston Lane.

If you would like a speaker from the action group to inform you of the facilities of the centre and the campaigns currently being waged, contact the action group at Hackney Baths, 39 Lower Clapton Road, E5. 985 2366

UNEMPLOYED?

BORED?

HAVE A CUPPA WITH THE  
HACKNEY UNEMPLOYED  
ACTION GROUP  
EVERY TUESDAY, 2PM

at the HACKNEY CENTRE FOR THE  
UNEMPLOYED  
39 LOWER CLAPTON RD,  
LONDON E5  
081 985 2366

# Miner's strike latest Spotlight on Notts

About 75 people attended the Nottingham N.U.M. public meeting at Hackney Town Hall on Thursday 20th September. The meeting, which was organised by Notts. Miners Rank and File Strike Committee, aimed to draw attention to the unprecedented level of police violence and denials of civil liberties experienced by striking N.U.M. members, and particularly those in Nottingham, since the beginning of the present dispute.

First to speak was Joan Cole of Creswell Women's Support Committee. She summed up the present situation in the village in her opening words; on leaving Creswell at 5.30 that morning she had already been stopped on four occasions by police patrols.

She gave several other examples of police harassment; one lad was arrested on the picket line - two policemen held his arms, two his legs and one kicked him between the legs. Another lad was told, "Go up that alley, you'll be OK" - and he was beaten up. Of the mood in Creswell Joan said, "it's so bitter and the police are the cause of it; you're supposed to respect them but I don't know how anyone can."

Joan, who got the sack the day after her husband joined the strike, went on to describe the severe financial hardship faced by striking miners in Notts and their families. Money is really desperate, she said - you can't even afford to buy an ice-pop for the kids; but nobody is starving as people continue to send food and donations. "It's not a lot, she commented, but when you've got nothing it's a big thing."

## 'TROUBLE TO COME'

On the women's role in the strike she was firm: "as long as the women are there, we'll back the men." And of those Notts. miners who have ignored the strike action she merely said: "The scabs have got trouble to come when the strike is over".

Terry Martin of Notts Miners Rank and File Pickets was next to speak. He apologised for Paul Whetton, who had stayed in Nottinghamshire to vote on a committee concerned with the closure of a soup-kitchen.

He gave a brief background to the present situation in Notts., pointing out that Notts coal is among the easiest and cheapest to mine in Great Britain. He referred to Notts minefields as "the jewel in the crown." Notts miners, he said, are the biggest incentive earners in Britain; a Notts miner can earn bonuses of up to £80 a week, compared with the £10 average weekly bonus of a Yorkshire miner. In Martin's opinion greed is the reason why the majority of Notts miners are still at work - "they don't believe in Trade Unions; they've all got mortgages." He was among the 70% of the workforce who voted against this incentive scheme when a national ballot was held on its introduction. He was vehement, "don't ask me to

sign a paper to put lads in Wales and Durham out of a job - I won't do it."

Martin echoed Joan Cole in his criticism of harrassment and overpolicing in Notts villages. In his village, Cograve, he said, there are 1400 inhabitants and 2000 police have been brought in since the beginning of the strike. Each member of the community has been given a numbered pass which must be shown to enter or leave the village. The police stop people at random in the streets, asking where they are from and to prove it.

## CURFEWS

According to Martin, the police refuse to allow pickets to stop "scab wagons" and talk to the drivers; if they do, they are arrested for breach of the peace. "If you have any success on the picket line," he said, "they send in snatch squads and pick you out". An appearance in court often results in bail and a 9pm-8am curfew. One such miner who went out after the deadline to buy fish and chips for his family was imprisoned for 7 days. Talking of police tactics in this dispute, Martin cautioned, "look at your police, and who is in charge."

## INTIMIDATION

He then focused on the Coal Board as a source of intimidation. Miners and their families, he said, receive a free allocation of coal but this has been withheld from those on strike, with the result that thousands of people now face a winter without any coal in the bunker. Martin cited the case of an eight and a half months pregnant woman who was terrified by welfare department threats to keep her baby in hospital if she had no coal to heat the house. Of Coal Board chairman, Ian Macgrigor, he said: "he's not Scottish; he's a renegade and a mercenary; wherever the price is right - he'll go there."

Martin was warm in his praise of young miners saying that although they had not attended branch meetings before the strike, they now outnumber older miners among those on strike, because they "can see the future danger. He also expressed the striking miners' gratitude to black communities in Notts, who, he said, "have been under the hammer for years while we've sat back."

## FAMILIES DIVIDED

Many Notts families, said Martin, have been divided by the strike action, and he gave his own family as an example. They are all out except his youngest brother; so when Martin invited this brother to his baby's christening, half the family refused to attend. "If it hurts the family," he commented, "that's what we've got to put up with; but it hurts more."

Speaking of the future, Martin warned that unlike the steelworkers and the British Leyland workers, the miners would not go back; they would sit it out longer than Margaret Thatcher. All the Prime Minister believes in, he said, is Monetarism. But the price of oil is going up and the £ is dropping; 90% of coal is being stopped and it's impossible to supply the eight power stations in the Trent valley by lorry. "Come the winter," he concluded, "the lights are going out; Jack Frost is coming".

## HARASSMENT

Brynley Heaven, chair of the Police Committee was unequivocal in his expression of Hackney people's support for the miners. "We don't say we're impractical - we support the NUM 100% and will do until they win." He made it clear that police harrassment in Notts villages is close to the feelings of the people of Hackney, who have witnessed the treatment of those collecting food and money for striking families. On Saturday 15 September, outside Sainsbury's in Dalston, he said, one woman was threatened under a non-existent law with one week's imprisonment if she persisted; while others collecting for the miners were prosecuted under laws dating from the Napoleonic wars for begging.

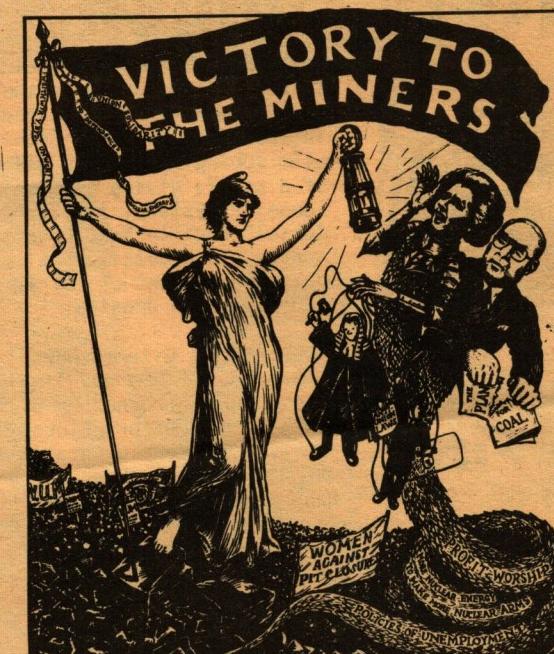
Heaven said the struggle could be assisted by mass collections. "If there is clear organisation there is nothing they can do."

## BETTY SHANKS

Betty Shanks, Deputy Mayor of Hackney Council, thanked the Notts speakers, commenting on the unreliability of media coverage. She was followed by John Bloom chair of Housing Committee, who put the present dispute in a broader political and historical context. He recalled the last miners' strike in the 1970s and traced the events leading to the Thatcher government's rise to power, laying the blame squarely on the shoulders of successive Labour governments who, he criticised, always implement mild Tory policies and make no attempt to destroy capitalism.

Thatcher, said Bloom, intended from the outset to carry out rigid capitalist policies using fascist methods and she knew she had to destroy the trade unions and local government. During her first four years in power, Bloom remarked, nobody was prepared to take Thatcher on, but now the miners have taken on the struggle and the tide is turning. He concluded, "the miners will win, if we give them 100 percent support".

Any enquiries should be made to the Notts. Rank and File strike committee (London representatives), 183-187 Stoke Newington High Street, 01-254 6691 (X 215).



## Hackney helps schools in Nicaragua

'Three of us are skilled volunteers - carpenter, bricklayer and general builder. The rest of us have some general labouring or work camp, plus good Spanish. I took Latin-American studies at college and my Spanish is fluent, so I will be able to translate for some of the others.'

She explained that the group would be working with the local community with the aim of passing on the skills they had, so that the local community would become more self-supporting. The government had drawn up all the plans for the school, however, and the project direction and administration would be handled by the Nicaraguans.



A group of people from Britain - one of them from Hackney - are leaving next month to help Nicaragua in its efforts to improve life for its people.

Besides food, housing and medicine, one of the Nicaraguan government's most urgent priorities at present is to give all its children an education. In 1980 an impressive start was made when brigades of volunteers - thousands of people, mainly young - travelled the country to teach reading and writing: illiteracy has dropped dramatically from 50% to 12%.

## BUILDING

Building schools is another, essential part of this education programme. The government plans to provide a network of schools all through the countryside so that no child has to walk more than three km to get to school. Organisations in Europe have promised to help finance, build and equip 17 schools in El Sol. Volunteers from Britain and other countries in the EEC will be working with local people to build the schools, and it is with this part of the project that the British group is concerned.

Jane Miller, from Hackney, explained what she will be doing. 'I'm one of a seven-strong construction brigade that is leaving in November to build a primary school. The project is due to last until March next year.'

Nicaragua is of course a desperately poor country, and everything needed for schools is in very short supply. Nor are the volunteers themselves to receive any pay. Jane made a plea for any support that people in Hackney could give. 'Pencils, felt-tip pens, paper, textbooks, would all be useful. So too would donations. We are going to have to take with us as many tools as possible, supplies for the schools and other commodities too, since so many things are in short supply in Nicaragua. Inevitably our excess baggage charges are going to be enormous.'

If you can help, send your contributions to The Projects Committee, Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, 20/21 Compton Terrace, London N1. 359 8982

## REVIEWS



## Some Grit Some Fire

A group of Hackney women who met as a Workers Education Association Class at Centerprise are the authors of a collection of poems, stories and prose pieces entitled **SOME GRIT SOME FIRE**.

The variety of styles and subject matter of the pieces in this collection reflects the diverse backgrounds of the women who wrote them... range in age from 21-70, and come from places as far apart as Luton and Jamaica. Some are mothers others are not.

Some but not all of their work arises from the shared experience of being female, and their desire to put it down on paper. They say, "We were brought up not to rock boats... not to challenge society...to

be "good Catholics, 'dutiful daughters', 'good mothers'.

In "Sacred Heart" and "Going to School" childhood is the theme. Jennifer Wallace recalls incidents in an Irish Catholic upbringing through the eyes of a child, giving events a sense of mystery. In "Going to School" Lucille Newman reconstructs a detailed, simply narrated account of early schooldays in Jamaica.

Relationships with mothers figure in "To Mum" by Tina O'Leary and "For June" by Billie Hunter. In "Factory Piece" the dulling routine gradually builds up until an abrupt escape has to be made.

**Abortion-Looking Back** is a full and unsentimental account of one woman's experience.

I particularly enjoyed many of the poems in the book. Some were particularly successful in striking a chord of recognition. For example, in Billie Hunter's poem "Jammed" "deodorised marketing managers" are "snug in Marks and Spencers underpants". After reading **SOME GRIT SOME FIRE** I found that the autobiographical details at the back made interesting reading. A nice touch too was the use of snapshots from family albums throughout the book.

**SOME GRIT SOME FIRE** is £2. - from Centerprise, £2.75 elsewhere.

## It'll All Be Over By Christmas

Is the title of a small exhibition in Hackney Council's Archive Department, situated in the basement of the Rose Lipman Library in De Beauvoir Road, N1. The exhibition looks back to the outbreak of the First World War and its effects on Hackney.

Original recruiting posters show a mother gesturing to her son, "Go, it's your duty to the land"; the spiv, fag in the corner of his mouth, watching as a bunch of recruits are drilled and underneath the caption: "Are you in this?"

The exhibition draws largely on the memories of local residents as recorded in the department's oral history collection. Volunteers such as George Perryman of Hoxton, who was 17 at the outbreak of the war and joined up for a guaranteed wage and better living conditions. He, like so many others thought, "It'll all be over by Christmas."

People remember the enthusiasm of recruiting speeches like those made by Horatio Bottomly, MP for Hackney South, at Clapton Orient football ground and the jibes of coward against those who did not enlist. One photograph shows a Pacifist meeting at the Brotherhood Chapel, Southgate Road, Kingsland being broken up violently; while Lord Roberts' Message to the boys of Eton Manor Club, Hackney Wick in 1914 encourages them to "preach to all around the glorious right of this war."

The exhibition describes the victimisation of German

immigrants who had settled in East London early in the 19th century. After the outbreak of the war, they were obliged to register their address and could only travel within a five-mile radius. Open hostility to these immigrants became particularly fierce in 1915 after the sinking of The Lusitania and the first Zeppelin raid, when bombs fell on Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Hoxton. Germans anglicized their names; Heinrich Lunkerheimer, a baker of Chatsworth Road, became plain Henry Lunken. Many Germans were attacked in their

homes and many were forced out of business. The Hamburg Freidenblatt Magazine commented of these anti-German pogroms, "the women, as is the custom with English ladies, were drunk and in that condition they became worthy leaders of the mob."

Food queues, rationing and the early air-raids by Zeppelins are all recalled through people's memories, photographs and posters. No sirens in those days; a policeman cycled around with a sandwich-board telling people to "take cover."

The exhibition will be on until early in November and opening hours are 10am-8pm Mondays; 10am-5.30pm Tuesday to Friday and 10am-1pm then 2pm-5pm Saturdays. (These hours are subject to alteration at present due to the industrial action by library porters.)

For further information contact David Gaffan: 986 3123 extension 384.

## pub of the month

## Ask not for whom time has been called . . .

Tuesday, the 18th of September was a red-letter day for Hackney's licensed victualers. At 10am a rented transit van pulled up outside a housing association flat in Lower Clapton. A few clothes appliances and fittings, and half the production of a small but distinguished home brewery were loaded into the van, which was later spotted heading westwards along Dalston Lane.

The Hereford and Worcester Social Services department has claimed Ian Priddey, HPP's former administrative lynch-pin and Hackney's premier beer critic.

For more than a year Ian risked life and liver to bring back meticulously researched reports from pubs in and around Hackney. Ian's dedication often carried him beyond the call of duty. Several of the Pub of the Month reports you may have seen in these pages were accomplished by superhuman feats of memory and considerable skill in deciphering illegible notes written on soggy beermats. The publicans of Hackney will miss him.

Shortly before the fatal day we gathered for a commemorative review session at Chat's Palace, a long-time favorite of HPP's booze patrol.



Ian was tired and emotional: "Do you realise, I have not been to bed before 3am for the last three weeks," he said, clutching a pint of Chat's Eye for support. This is a substantial and satisfying bitter, specially brewed for Chat's Palace by the Pitfield Brewery and Beer Shop -- another establishment that will have cause to mourn Ian's departure. We asked for an assessment.

"What does it taste like?" he answered, "I don't know, just get me another one." Soon he calmed down enough to discuss our surroundings.

Chat's Palace used to be the Homerton Public library, which gives the bar the kind of atmosphere which is so often missing from many community watering holes.

The serving area is set into a wood panel wall, and the floor is old-fashioned parquet flooring. Outlandish paper mache dummies, refugees no doubt from a bygone Chat's extravaganza, hang from the

bar's atmosphere usually reflects the event going on in the theatre behind it, although the bar itself boasts jazz on Sunday afternoons, and its own blues/rock showcase on Wednesday evenings.

Apart from the tasty Chat's Eye, the bar offers a rotating selection of well-kept real ales, including Sam Smiths bitter, Godson's Black Horse (GBH), Everard's Tiger and Greene King's Abbot Ale.

Ian meanwhile was explaining the different acidity levels of Saaz and Goldings hops, punctuating his lecture with tastes of Pils and Bitter to illustrate his point. As the lights dimmed and with the bar staff politely encouraging us to leave, Ian promised to return to East London to further educate our beer palates.

Fans will be able to meet the man on Saturday October 20, at this year's Pigs Ear real ale festival, at York Hall, Bethnal Green.

• Chat's too have lost a valued member of their team. Alan Rossiter, Chats Arts Co-ordinator, who worked at the Homerton community centre from its beginning in 1976, has left, after helping to build Chats into one of London's most successful community arts centres. He hasn't moved far though -- from E9 to E8, where he is taking up a job with Free Form.

walls above a split-level seating area. It's a very versatile bar, and seems like a different place every time you go.

One night the palace might be packed with punks, the next with pensioners. The

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### JUST SOME OF THE 70-PLUS SESSIONS ON OFFER:

**STUART HALL & TONY BENN** debate Thatcherism and the Left's future.

**BEA CAMPBELL & KEN LIVINGSTONE** discuss Labourism and the people.

**TOWARDS 2000AD** Bea Campbell, Bob Rowthorn, Raymond Williams and Göran Therborn explore what the Left has to offer the future and what the future has to offer the Left.

**THE STATE OF THE ARTS** Novelist Buchi Emecheta, Tony Banks MP and poet and writer Michelene Wandor discuss what role the state does, and should, play in cultivating culture in Britain.

Novelist, **Angela Carter** and playwright **Trevor Griffiths** talk about their work.

**ARMS CONVERSION** TGWU General Secretary Elect, Ron Todd, joins a discussion on the future of Britain's arms industry and its workforce.

**CRISIS ON FLEET STREET** Guardian editor Peter Preston, Clive Thornton, and Mike Power look at the chaotic state and uncertain future of the newspaper world.

**PLUS** Scores of other speakers on everything from home computers to Thatcherism, animals' rights to women's magazines, TUC strategy to soap opera, drugs to the Communist Party's future. For example, Sheila Rowbotham, Gordon McLennan, Włodzimierz Brus, Clare Short, Mick McGahey, Peter Kellner, Basil Davidson, Stephen Sedley QC, Betty Heathfield, Jack Dromey, Simon Hughes MP, David Yip, Howard Brenton, Jeremy Seabrook.

**AND THERE'S NO TIME TO RELAX** With cabaret from Hank Wangford, Sensible Footwear, and Benjamin Zephaniah. Music in the bar, films, swimming, jazz dance, jogging, sports and a full programme of children's entertainments, plus stalls, food, bars and creche.

I wish to register for 'Left Alive' and enclose £10\* (waged), £6\* (unwaged).  
 I wish to register for the Left Alive Cabaret on the Saturday night and enclose £3 (waged), £2 (unwaged).  
 I require accommodation on the following nights:  
 I am likely to bring children to the creche.

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\*This does not cover Friday night and Saturday night events. Make cheques/PO's payable to 'Left Alive', and send to Mary Braithwaite, Left Alive, 16 St John Street, London EC1M 4AY. More information: telephone 01-251 4406. \*agreed subject to final availability

# WHAT'S ON

## Theatre

**HALF MOON THEATRE**  
213 Mile End Road, E1  
790 4000

**The go-go boys** - a play about male sexuality.  
Until 13 October. 8.00.  
Tickets £2.50, concessions £1.50.

**Trouble and strife** a cabaret. 18-28 Oct.

**THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST**  
Gerry Raffles Square, E15  
534 0310

**Old Story Time** comedy set in Jamaica. Until 13 Oct

**Lazy Days Ltd** New play  
25 Oct- 24 Nov

Tickets £5, £4, £3, £2, £1

## Music

**THE LINERS - HACKNEY NAIGO BENEFIT**

Hackney NAIGO is running a benefit for the miners at Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, E8 on Fri 8 Oct. 8.00-1.00. Tickets £2, £1 unwaged. Bring food and clothing for the miners

### African Dawn

Benefit for Ireland, on Fri 26 Oct, 8.00, £2, £1 unwaged at Middlesex Poly, All Saints site, White Hart Lane. Run by Middlesex Poly Irish Society

### Meetings

#### Picket to close down teh South African embassy

Meeting to organise on 9 Oct, 7.30 at the Camden Centre, Bidborough St.

#### Fighting racism today - building a mass movement

On how to combat the increasing number of racial attacks. Run by the East London Campaign against racist attacks and police harrassment on 21 October. Contact P0 Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7

#### Neighbourhood watch

Day school on the problems, neighbourhood watch in practice, community response and organising alternative forms of crime prevention. Run by teh Libertarian Research and Education Trust on Saturday 3 November, at Holborn Library Hall, Theobalds road, WC1. Contact Julian Scola, LRET, 9 Poland Street, W1. 734 5831

## Other events

### Community Pride Week

Activities to bring community groups more into the public eye. 3-10 Nov. Ensure your group's funding is not lost. Let people know you are worth while and support you. Contact Chris Collins/Tim Young at CWS, 68 Chalton St NW1. 388 0241.

### Courses organised by the WEA

#### Images of Women in the Media

Examines the way in which women are represented in the media, covering all areas of the media, in particular print. Thursdays, 7.30 at the Ufton Centre, Ufton Road, N1, until 29 November. 25p a session, 25p unwaged. Run by Women's Media Action Group/WEA

#### The Last Laugh

Comic traditions in women's writing - looking at cartoons novels, plays. Mondays, the Fire Station, Leswin Rd. 7.30. Fees as above

#### Theatre and Cabaret Workshop

Skills taught by established performers. Tuesdays, 7.30, Crown & Castle, Dalston Jnc E8. Fees as above

#### Women Today

Discussions on topics of particular concern to women, with speakers. Mondays 1.30-3.15, Hoxton Hall, 128 Hoxton St, N1. Fees as above.

#### Advice Centres Training Courses

These cover the basic subjects common to advice centres - homelessness, repairs, police immigration, disability, benefits, etc. At Enterprise, 136-8 Kingsland High St, E8, on Thursdays from 11 October to 13 December. Separate sessions. Contact 254 9632, the Hackney Citizens' Rights Group

Saturday 17 November:

National Black Conference on the Police Bill. at Hackney Town Hall, Further details from 833 3823.

International Evening, Show and Dance by the Hackney Council for Racial Equality.

At Hackney Town Hall (Assembly Rooms) on Saturday 27 October.

7.30pm — 2.00am.

Admission £2 including food. Tickets from HCRC, 1 Crossway, N.16. (241 0097).



### CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

National demonstration against Trident.

Barrow in Furness, Cumbria.

Saturday 27 October.

Hackney CND have booked a coach, costing £10.00 (£5.00 for concessions) return. Coach leaves at midnight on Friday 26 October from outside Hackney Town Hall arriving back on Sunday 28 October.

People will probably need their own provisions as HCND is not clear about what facilities are available in Barrow. To book a place on the coach, ring Dave on 254 0400.

### OTHER HCND MEETINGS:

Mon 29 October: Business Meeting. Labour and Trades Club, 96 Dalston Lane, E8. at 8pm.

Sat 10 November: HCND Benefit for the Miners. Labour Club, 8pm.

Mon 12 November: Meeting to discuss National Conference resolutions. Labour Club, 8pm.

# SWITCH ON AT SIX

## REMEMBER . . .

Switching on at 6 pm creates a daily peak of electricity demand and means that coal-fired power stations operating at a low level - or those in mothballs until the winter - have to be brought into use. That eats still further into coal stocks.

It is also possible that a big enough switch on would create an electricity blackout, registering massive support for the miners.

So switch on at six every day. Cookers, toasters, irons, stoves, electric heaters all use massive amounts of electricity.

Just change your pattern so that at 6.00 pm every evening you use your appliances and, if possible, keep going until 6.30pm.

The major point to remember is SWITCH ON AT SIX EVERY DAY.

And pass this message on to six other sympathetic people.

This campaign is the most practical way in which you can help the miners strike (other than by donating money, food etc!). The government has said that electricity users are going to have to pay the bill for the strike: a 13% rise is likely next year. If the miners lose and the pits are closed then we will all be paying through the nose for ever.

A demonstration in support of the miners will be held in Hackney on Saturday 17 November. Details can be obtained from the Hackney Miners Support Committee on 249 8086.

You can contact the local offices of the NUM on 254 6691 ext 215 and on 985 6892.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# CHATS PALACE

## HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

### 42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

Sat 8pm	6 Hackney Festival '84. Dance Dance Dance. Turn On The Taps (Pt II) with Joe Chisholm, Ken Howe and Audrey Maye, and Lucille Gaye. Free.
Sun Noon	7 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with Ruthie Smith's Toot Sweet.
Wed 9pm	10 Pub Night in the bar with Louis "Fingers" O'Neil. Blues, boogie and soul. Free.
Thu 8.30pm	11 Jive Dance Class with Warren. £1.50/75p unwaged.
Fri 8pm	12 *Pyramid Arts Development present North London Link-Up Youth Show with Equity, Fashion, Body Poppers and Drama. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 2-5pm 8pm	13 *One Year On" Save Hackney Campaign birthday celebration with Kids indoor and outdoor events, plus bands, disco and cabaret with local groups. Free.
Sun Noon	14 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with The Chatsworth Stompers. Dixieland Jazz.
Wed 9pm	17 Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro and friends. Hits of the 50's. Free.
Thu 8pm	18 *Benefit for Amnesty International with The Islington/Hackney All Stars with Bob Brady and Charlie Grimes, Anni Chester, Gilla Gelberg and 'One-Liners'. £2.50/£1 unwaged.
Fri 9pm	19 Cabaret with The Screaming Abdabs, Wild Girls, Amanda Swift, Alan Gilbey and much more. £2.50/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	20 Benefit for Sickle Cell Anaemia Appeal with steel band, disco and celebrity guest. £2.50/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	21 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with The Simon Purcell Quartet.
Wed 9pm	24 Pub Night in the bar with Chris Murray and friends. Free.
Thu 8pm	25 Chats Palace A.G.M. Followed by entertainment. All members welcome.
Fri 8pm	26 Soul band Seventh Heaven plus Wild Bill's Disco. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8.30pm	27 Chats Palace Juke Joint with The Blue Rhythm Boys. plus the Juke Joint disco. £2.50/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	28 Lunchtime Jazz with Dizzy Spells.
Wed 9pm	31 Pub Night in the bar with Gerry Hunt and friends. Free.

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OCTOBER

FRI 12	SAT 13	SUN 14	MON 15	TUE 16	WED 17	SUNDAY 14	THURSDAY 19
<b>THE HIT</b> 18						GRAHAM GREENE TRIPLE	NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN
Starring JOHN HURT TIM ROTH LAURA DEL SOL TERENCE STAMP With BILL HUNTER FERNANDO REY						THIS GUN FOR HIRE	NICARAGUAN JOURNEY
MON TUE WED 7.00						DIR FRITZ Lang US 1942 87m	BR 37m. dir Jackie Reiter, Wolf Tirodo, Holly Aylett.
THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY dir John Mackenzie UK 1980 105m.						dir Carol Reed, Br, 1949 100m.	UNDER FIRE dir Roger S. Hilliswood, 128m US
THE PASSANGER dir Michelangelo Antonioni, Fr/It, 1973, 119m.						DAY FOR NIGHT 2.30	DANCE GIRL DANCE dir Dorothy Truffaut Fr/It 1973 89m
FRI 19 SAT 20 SUN 21 MON 22 TUE 23 WED 24						dir Francois Truffaut Fr/It 1973 116m.	CALAMITY JANE d. 35 dir David Butler, Chapman US 1984 96m.
<b>ANOTHER COUNTRY</b> (15)						STRANGERS KISS 54.30 (15) dir Matthew Chapman US 1984 96m.	RUE CASES NEGRES PG
FRI 26 SAT 27 SUN 28 MON 29 TUE 30 WED 31						dir Mike Nichols 1984 US 131m with Meryl Streep and Cher	BLACK ORPHEUS (PG) dir Marcel Camus, Brazil 1954 106m.
<b>THE DRESSER</b> 7.15 6 9.00						NIGHT OF THE HUNTER dir Charles Laughton, US 1955 100m.	RUE CASES NEGRES PG
<b>THE BIG CHILL</b> 7.15 6 9.00						dir Jacques Rivette Fr 1974 180m.	BLACK SHACK ALLEY dir Barry Pulty, 1983, 91m. Martinique
FRI 2 SAT 3 SUN 4 MON 5 TUE 6						CELINE AND JULIE GO BOATING (15)	ANGEL 15. 9.00 dir Neil Jordan, Ir/Br, 1982 92m.
FRI 7 SAT 8 SUN 9 MON 10 TUE 11						MON TUE WED 7.00 NIGHT OF THE HUNTER dir Charles Laughton, US 1955 100m.	FOR DONS ON WATER 1.15 dir Barry Pulty, 1983, 85m.
<b>THE COMPANY OF WOLVES</b> (15)						dir Jacques Rivette Fr 1974 180m.	CELINE AND JULIE GO BOATING (15)
FRI 12 SAT 13 SUN 14 MON 15 TUE 16						MON TUE WED 7.00 NIGHT OF THE HUNTER dir Charles Laughton, US 1955 100m.	ANGEL 15. 9.00 dir Neil Jordan, Ir/Br, 1982 92m.



# COMMON CULTURE

Greenham poses a problem for news coverage. The recent ten day action generated no headlines. Were the ten days a non-event? Or was the low-key policing and non-coverage deliberate? Perhaps the point of the action was not to make hard news. HPP takes a look .....

Actions at Greenham are usually fragmented. Even last December when there was a surprise mass onslaught on the fence and the police could do nothing to prevent it, there must have been women, 4½ miles away round the other side of the base who knew nothing about it. News at Greenham travels by word of mouth and is often changed in the telling.

This is reflected in media coverage, when there is any. Two minutes of filming on the news or a single reporter can do no more than relay isolated incidents or estimate the numbers present. It takes the empathy of a full length video such as "Carry Greenham Home", or Gwyn

Kirk's low budget "Common Sense" to make any sense of Greenham at all. Hard news prefers violence, or individual acts of heroism.

Fragmentation at Greenham has one advantage: it demands active participation. No one can take out membership, sign endless petitions, join well-behaved marches or listen to celebrity speeches. There were women present during the ten days who had hitched from Denmark, flown from Australia and New Zealand - or driven up from Newbury and set up camp with chairs, tables and bottles of wine, risking vigilante attacks on their cars or houses and ostracisation at work for their support. A Newbury teacher I spoke to had seven instances of "indoctrination" listed on her work record, and was reported by one of her pupil's parents for wearing a CND badge in the school holidays in another town!

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The eight separate camps round the base already have their own different cultures: these were multiplied during the ten days, with camps set up by groups of women from different towns, regions and countries, all with their own sense of what Greenham is about, and with different styles of political action. Actions were planned by autonomous groups - the more there were, the more one was likely to succeed.

## Police

The police had worked out their own response to these differences, largely saving the heavy treatment for the 'camp women', those who live there all the time, and are best equipped to see through the massive PR exercise the police attempted to carry out on the "weekenders". However, their pleasantness was hardly convincing: one woman observed the police chatting jovially to a group of women, and then, without warning, dragging one of the women through a hole in the fence and arresting her. They were deliberately detaining and questioning, but not charging, the majority of women who got into the base, to produce maximum intimidation and minimum publicity. Someone had obviously decided that there would be very few court cases coming out of the ten days.

## Publicity

Nevertheless, women had their own methods of self-publicity - visibility and exchange of information. During the week women were



The Hackney and East London women's camps outside Blue Gate at Greenham Common, 20th-30th September.

reality rather than a future threat, with the wholesale attack on the rights and cultures of the Aboriginal, Maori and Polynesian peoples. Women were also able to hear about a two week peace camp that had been held near Alice Springs in the middle of the Australian desert, and the growth of a Pacific rather than a European style women's peace movement.

The workshops were a model of effective communication between large numbers of people, with an openness characteristic of feminist groups but which is often lost in formal conferences. The only hindrance was the noise of helicopters overhead.

## Uncertainty

In some ways it was disappointing that there was no single mass action to focus the ten days. But a single action might have implied a false sense of security. There is a persistent rumour that there are no cruise missiles at Greenham any more. If not, where are they? A few weeks ago, women got into the base and obtained papers giving details of chemical warfare training. There is no security or certainty at Greenham. But the strength of the culture that the women's camps have created there is enabling activity to spread away from single issues and single actions, and beyond Greenham itself. The ten days were a celebration of this.

## TRIBUTE TO CHRIS BAXTER

The tragic death of Chris Baxter has robbed Hackney and the labour movement of one of its most able, dedicated and caring people.

Chris and his wife Helen moved to Clapton in 1974. He joined the Labour Party after the Tory election victory of May 1979 because in his own words "I'd better do something or this bunch will have us all over."

Chris was immediately involved. He was the constituency secretary and in May 1982 was elected to serve as a councillor for Leabridge ward. Chris's wholehearted approach to everything he did led to him volunteering for some of the most demanding jobs on the Council. He was vice chair of the Public Services Committee and in May this year he was elected to serve as chair of that committee.

By profession, Chris was a teacher. He taught at several Hackney schools and most recently at Hackney Downs. His increasing involvement on the Council had led him to the decision that he was unable to give the time he thought that his pupils deserved. So in July this year he resigned his post to dedicate his time to the ever increasing burden of Council committees and surgery work.

Chris's basic honesty and gentle nature would see him spending hours on behalf of his constituents pursuing their problems. He was liked by his political opponents even though he was a dedicated advocate of socialism.

It was impossible not to like Chris, one of that rare breed of people and a genuine and compassionate person. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Chris was a great supporter of the miners' struggle. His widow Helen has said that donations should be sent to them in memory of Chris, as this is something he would have considered fitting.

## YOUR PAPER ...

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS (HPP) is an alternative non-profit monthly newspaper. We began in May 1973 and have remained totally independent, publishing a wide range of articles on local topics and community activity issues that are ignored by the commercial press or subject to distortion.

We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to serve the interests of ordinary people in a non-racist, non-sexist manner.

HPP is an open community paper - open to your letters and stories, even if this means that we sometimes appear to be taking two different views at the same time! But just as important we are open to people becoming actively involved in producing the paper. Indeed without people prepared to write, type and lay out the paper it could not exist. HPP IS YOUR PAPER - USE IT!

Our address is c/o 10a Bradbury Street, N16 8JN.  
The next editorial meeting is on Wed 7 November at 7.30pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Please come!